(e) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, the losses are mainly due to excess manpower in the organisation, fall in the sales of controlled commodities like palmolein and controlled cloth, non-recovery of amounts involved in credi' sales and attachment of its bank account by ESI autnorities on account of a contingent liability arising out of the decision that the Super Bazar employees are covered under the ESI ACT. In order to over come these problems, the management of the Super Bazar has taken several measures, which include closing of unviable branches of Super Bazar, streamlining its administrative functioning, and opening up of procurement centres in respect of agricultural and other commodities like rice, wheat and woollen garments in the States of M.P. and Punjab.

Kerosene Oil Quota to U.P.

315. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA' : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.P. is getting Kerosene Oil quota less than the national average;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the quota for U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The per capita availability of kerosene in U.P. during 1997-98 was 8.47 KG/a.nnum which was below the national average of 11.41 KG/annum

(b) and (c) Allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e., past years supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level, SKO is a deficit product and more than 40% of our requirements are met by imports. Due to constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the full demand of the States. A very high increase has been given in the allocation of kerosene in 1998-99 to those States having per capita availability of kerosene much lower than the national average. Accordingly, an increase of 18.01% has been made in the allocation of kerosene for Uttar Pradesh for the year 1998-99, compared to the 8.58% increase at the country level. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 212261 MTs. The per capita availability of kerosene in the State has increased to 10 KG/person/annum in 1998-99 from 8.47 KG/person/annum in 1997-98.

Wheat Storage in FCI Godowns

316. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether imported wheat has created storage problem in the FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for import when we have buffer stock of grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir;

(b) Does not arise; and

(c) Due to untimely rains during the sowing season, the Ministry of Agriculture had initially estimated that production of wheat during the current Rabi Season was likely to be 64.51 million tonnes as against 69.27 million tonnes last year. Government, therefore, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99 to augment its availability in the country, for keeping prices under control.

Additional quota of levy sugar to Maharashtra

317. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CUNSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from Maharashtra Government to continue the allotment of yearly additional quota of levy sugar of 9014 MTs in future; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under current

practice, Maharashtra State is given a yearly festival quota of 9014 MTs over and above the normal levy quota.

FCI godowns in Tamil Nadu

318. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI. Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation and present capacity of the godowns of Food Corporation of India in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the number of offices and godowns proposed to be opened in the State during the current and next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Monthly allocation of rice & wheat to the State of Tamil Nadu is 1.29 lakh'tonnes. The total capacity of the Godowns of FCI in the State of Tamil Nadu is 7.93 lakh tonnes as on 31.3.1998.

(b) Creation of a new District office/ Reorganisation of offices in FCI is a continuous process which is carried out on the need basis/ operational requirement. There is no proposal for creation of new Office/construction of godown in the State of Tamil Nadu in the current year. However, in the next two years, construction of the godown at the following centres with the capacity mentioned against each are under consideration:—

Centre	Capacity
1. m Ramanathpura	5,000 MT 25,000 MT (with railway sidings)
2. Vilangudi	

Representation on duty concession from CCC

319. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) have represented to Government that duty concessions given by Government to industries are not being passed on to the consumers and that the cocerned industries are only interested in profits as a result of duty relief provided to them; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard and what mechanism is proposed to be evolved by Government so as to ensure that the benefits of any duty concessions * to industries reach the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) In the pre-budget meeting taken by the Ministry of Finance on 28.4.98, the Consumer Coordination Council had represented that mechanisms should be devised by the Ministry of Finance to ensure that excise duty concessions envisaged in the Finance Bill are passed on to the consumers.

(b) The Ministry of Finance have stated that the prices of consumer goods are primarily determined by market forces or supply and demand and very often the duty reduction is motivated by the need to contain an undercurrent of inflationary pressure. Further there is no provision under the current excise laws to ensure that excise duty reduction necessarily results in reduction of prices at the retail level.

Implementation of AIDS control programmes

320. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation has undertaken HIV/AIDS Awareness and Control Programmes in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance released to State Governments during 1996-97 under the programme, State-wise;

(d) whether these programmes have been successfully implemented in all the States;